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FRANK L. HOOGSMANAGER

MONDAY AUGUST 19, 1907

A Drastic Primary Law

California has a primary election law under which a voter may not change his views after registering, and it has just been sustained by the Supreme court in all respects. The law has the features common to primary laws in other states, but was especially attacked because of the provision requiring voters to state their party affiliations at the time of registering, and to vote in the primary, if at all, in accordance with such declaration. In discussing this feature of the law, which the politicians seemed to think would kill the act, Chief Justice Beatty, author of the court's decision, says: "It is contended that the test prescribed by Section 1366A is unreasonable, because with the close of registration the elector loses his right to change his party allegiance in consequence of a change in his political convictions, and precludes him from taking part in the election of delegates to the conventions of the party with which on the day of election his more matured opinions would impel him to cast in his lot. This inconvenience certainly does result from the provisions of the act, but the Legislature, which must be presumed to have foreseen it, probably regarded such sudden conversion during a short interval, between the close of registration and the date of primary election as likely to be of such rare occurrence as not to justify the omission of a provision evidently designed to prevent unscrupulous and mercenary electors from holding themselves free down to the day of election to vote with any party, upon any corrupt motive, for the purpose of influencing the nominations of its candidates for public office, while without any interest in their success, and perhaps with an interest in their defeat. If it shall sometimes happen a conscientious voter is converted from one political faith to another between the close of registration and primary election, he may console himself for the loss of his vote by the reflection that his loss is trifling in comparison to his share in the advantage to the State of which he is a citizen, flowing from a measure which tends to prevent a grave abuse, especially in those centers of population where the primary election law is made obligatory."

Hats Off To The Firemen

The firemen who entered the oil warehouse yesterday morning and did their duty amid a lot of blazing cases of kerosene oil deserve special recognition and thanks of the community. It fell to be their duty to risk life in the performance of their duty and they took the risk promptly. It is an incident of every day throughout our country for firemen and police officers to take risks, but none the less do they deserve to be remembered for their heroism. The Star takes pleasure in telling today of the local firemen's work and in congratulating the Honolulu Fire Department on its feat. To have put out a blazing fire in the very midst of thousands of gallons of coal oil, immediately surrounded by thousands of gallons of gasoline, is an achievement which certainly calls for special recognition.

Rockefeller In A Jail?

Is John D. Rockefeller really in danger of going to prison? Can it be possible? How strange to think of the richest man in the world confined behind prison bars! Is it possible that the power of money which has been talked of so much, has been overestimated and that instead of being able to save its owner, instead of making him as we are told, the real ruler and boss of our country, it cannot even keep him out of a cell? It will be a nice spectacle for the country to see John D. peering through bars and then to remember how our Debates and others,—must Jack London be included?—have told us for a long time that money "could do anything." However, John D. isn't there yet. But his company has been convicted of an offense for which there is a jail penalty,—and more prosecutions are to come. If the prosecution has proved about 1400 cases, why not some more? It claims to have several thousand more ready, and for each one there is a possible jail penalty. The country seems to be crying for a picture of Rockefeller doing time, and Attorney General Bonaparte says there is to be no more immunity. Says the head of the federal prosecution: "In some cases it is the opinion of most of the prosecuting officers that the law can be much more clearly and effectively enforced through the imprisonment of individual defendants. The immunity given to Rockefeller and his assistants from personal prosecution when they appeared in Chicago as witnesses, will not extend to the rebates accepted from other railroads."

Is Really A War Conference

The Hague peace conference ought to be called a methods-of-war conference. Instead of talking schemes to preserve the peace, it has spent its discussion on how war shall be made, and most of the schemes suggested by various representatives seem to have had for their object the essentially warlike one of getting a rule adopted which would benefit his own country. For example Great Britain's idea of what a peace conference ought to do has been largely that it should make rules regarding preying upon commerce which would obviously be of much benefit to her when war came; Russia, remembering Port Arthur, wanted 24 hours' notice hereafter before any nation begins shooting,—and all agreed with her; powers with unprotected ports have wanted rules against bombardments. As a result, the real discussions have been about how to make war. Disarmament could get no hearing. It is predicted by one writer on the subject that the only result of the conference, aside from a lot of general discussions which have served to make the powers very suspicious of one another, will be adoption of the American suggestion of a permanent court at the Hague. It is agreed that this court can do no harm anyhow, and there is a possibility that it might at some time furnish the necessary means of arbitrating a disturbing issue.

Tales Worth Telling

A story is told of an Englishman who had occasion for a doctor while staying in Peking. "Sing Loo greatest doctor," advised his native servant, "he save my life once."

"Really?" queried the Englishman. "Yes, me tellible awful," was the reply. "Me callee in another doctor. He give me medicine. Me velly, velly bad. Me callee in another doctor. He come and give me more medicine. Make me velly, velly badder. Me callee in Sing Loo. He no come. He save my life."

COUNTING HER CHICKENS.

Lord Sholto Douglas, who was arrested through an error in Maine last month, was congratulated at a Portland hotel on the courtesy he had shown in pardoning the erring Maine police.

"Why shouldn't I have pardoned them?" said Lord Douglas, laughing. "They did their duty. I admit that their calculations were absurdly wrong. They reminded me of a young lady I used to know when I lived in the west."

"This young lady, whose family was well-to-do announced to her father one night that she was going to marry a penniless man."

"If you marry him," her father grumbled, "how on earth will you live?" "Oh," said the girl, confidently "we have figured that all out, and it is very simple. You know that black hen I bought last week?"

"Yes. What of it?"

"Well, I have consulted the best poultry circulars, and they all agree that a good hen will raise twenty chicks a year. That means that next season I shall have twenty-one hens. These at the season's end, each having raised their twenty young, will give me 240 in all. The next season there will be 8,400; the next 168,000, and the next 3,360,000. Just think of that! With chickens at 50 cents apiece, we will then be worth \$1,680,000. So you see, papa, you needn't worry about us."

THE LIMIT OF LAZINESS.

In order temporarily to forget all about courts and legal tomes, Merritt Starr, a Minneapolis lawyer, went for a trip to West Virginia. In one of his rambles through the country Mr. Starr came upon a tumble-down cabin, in front of which, a rudely constructed bench, sprawled a big negro lazily smoking a pipe. Not a sign of industry was visible in any direction, and Mr. Starr, curious to learn the system that enabled this dorky to live in apparent indolence, opened conversation with him and finally asked:

"What do you do for a living?" The negro grinned as he pointed to a lean and hungry-looking hog in a patch of trees on the other side of the road.

"Dar's my livin'," he replied.

"But you don't seem to raise anything with which to feed the animal," pursued Mr. Starr. "How does the hog get his living?"

"Oh," said the dorky, "the hog makes out on roots and acorns."

"But," argued the lawyer, "that's a pretty slow process. You ought to have some good Illinois corn to feed him. It'll take a hog a long time to get fat on what he can pick up."

For a moment or two the negro seemed a bit dubious, but he quickly solved the problem to his own satisfaction.

"Oh, well," said he, "what's time to a hog, anyway?"

A DISTINGUISHED TRIO.

The Hon. Joseph Chamberlain is fond of relating an incident that occurred while he and Lord Roseberry were returning from the theatre one night.

While crossing the street they were accosted by a ragged boy who after sweeping the mud from their path asked for alms.

Lord Roseberry was about to give the boy a coin when an idea struck him. "My boy," said Roseberry, "if you will hit that policeman a swat on the back with your muddy broom I will give you ten shillings." Prompt to the word the boy crept in back of the officer and raising his broom struck him in the back, then turned and ran, but to the dismay of Roseberry the officer caught the boy after a chase of a few yards.

Not wanting to leave the boy in a fix Roseberry tried to fix things up with the officer, but the worthy gentleman would not listen, and took them all three up to the station.

They were then taken before the Judge of the station and after surveying them through his glasses he took down a book and turning to Chamberlain asked his name. "Hon. Joseph Chamberlain," was the reply and the judge smiled.

Roseberry responded also with his full title, "Lord Roseberry."

The boy was next and stepping to the front he drew himself up to his full height and waited for the usual question, "Your name?"

"My name," said the boy, "Well, Judge I'm not the kind as what goes back on my pals. I'm the 'Duke of Wellington.'"

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